

REMARKS

By the *Office Action* of 25 February 2003, Paper No. 10, Claims 1-15 are pending in the Application, and all rejected. By the present *Response and Amendment After Final Rejection*, the Applicant amends Claim 8, cancels Claims 1-7 and 9, and leaves unchanged Claims 10-11 and 14-15. Pending upon entrance of this *Response* are Claims 8, 10-11 and 14-15.

No new matter is believed introduced by the present *Response and Amendment After Final Rejection*. It is respectfully submitted that the present Application is in condition for allowance for the following reasons.

1. U.S. Patent No. 6,354,962 to Galloway et al.

Claim 8 has been amended to include, among other limitations, the recitation of Claim 9, now canceled. The present invention of Claim 8 incorporates a *fully enclosed hollow structure* that is formed in the iron golf club head having a *cavity back structure*. Therefore, the effective face area can be widened, the effective deflection length can be lengthened, and the high coefficient of restitution of the current club is attained. Galloway et al. does not suggest these features, and in fact teaches away from them.

Independent Claim 8 further expressly recites an effective deflection length (L) being at least 36 mm and not more than 72 mm. L is disclosed, and shown in Fig. 1, as relating to the "height" of the face (as used in Galloway et al.) h. Claim 8 additionally defines the effective face area being at least 2500 mm² and not more than 5000 mm².

2. Japanese Publication No. 08-168541

Japanese Publication No. 08-168541 discloses a club head that has an opening 12 to open the hollow structure of the club, which is thus open to the environment.

The present invention is a club having a hollow structure which is not open to the environment, which many disadvantages need not be discussed. Regardless, Claim 8 recites that the hollow structure is fully enclosed (not having an opening), and thus novel and non-obvious over Japanese Publication No. 08-168541.

The amendments to Claim 8 regarding the fully enclosed hollow structure of the club are fully supported by the *Specification* as filed, and the drawings. It is respectfully submitted that

independent Claim 8, and all the dependant Claims, recite a club having novel and non-obvious features over the club of Japanese Publication No. 08-168541.

3. Fees

Presently, the Application has the same number or less than that amount paid for upon original filing. Thus, it is believed no additional Claim fees are due, although authorization to charge deposit account No. 20-1507 is given herein should fees be due.

Further, this *Response and Amendment After Final Rejection* is being filed within six months of the *Office Action*, and more specifically within three months. Thus, it is believed no Extension of Time fees are due, although authorization to charge deposit account No. 20-1507 is given herein should fees be due.

CONCLUSION

By the present *Response and Amendment After Final Rejection*, the Application has been in placed in full condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests early and favorable action. Should the Examiner have any further questions or reservations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned Attorney at 404.885.2773.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is submitted via facsimile to the After Final fax number for Art Unit 3711 of the United States Patent and Trademark Office at 703 872 9303

Pamela J. Githardt

Name of Applicant, Assignee, or
Registered Representative

Pamela J. Githardt

Signature

16 May 2003

Date

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan Schneider

Registration No. 45,083

TROUTMAN SANDERS, LLP
Bank of America Plaza
600 Peachtree Street, Suite 5200
Atlanta, Georgia 30308-2216
Tel. No.: 404.885.2773
Fax No.: 404.962.6849